IV

AGRICULTURE, ECONOMICS AND EDUCATION

The Blackfeet Indian Reservation, an area of 1,525,671 acres, located principally in Glacier County, Montana, is the home of some excellent ranching and farming operations. The Reservation is a block of land, approximately 52 by 58 miles, at the eastern base of the Rocky Mountains. Its northern boundary is the United States-Canada line (see Map, Figure 2).

The headquarters of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation is Browning, Montana, a city with a population of approximately 3,000. The Reservation has long been noted for its excellent grasses. The dominant grass species are blue grama, western wheat grass, green needle, fescues and June grass.

Population

Figures purporting to show Blackfeet Indian population vary slightly, but those listed below are taken from "The Blackfeet Tribe of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation, Application for Loan - 1960" to the United States Government and are believed to be substantially correct.

TABLE 5. TOTAL POPULATION, BLACKFEET INDIAN TRIBE

	Total	Living Off Reservation	Living On Reservation
Blackfeet Indians	8,456	3,606	4,850
Average Family Size	4.3		

TABLE 6. BLACKFEET INDIAN LABOR FORCE

Male		Female
Skilled or semiskilled	Unskilled	Skilled or semiskilled
800	700	300

Road System

U.S. Highway 89 is the principal north-south highway while U.S. highway 2 is the principal east-west route which traverse and service the Blackfeet Indian Reservation. In addition to the above, there is a total of 240 miles of primary (160) and secondary (80) roads on the Reservation.

Utilities

Electricity is supplied from the Fort Peck Dam, and this supply is integrated into the northwest power pool. Electricity is not a limiting factor on the Reservation from the viewpoint of agricultural production.

184 sample and appears closely related to income level. The care and
121 maintenance of these furnishings, however, is another matter and will
[511] be discussed later. Ownership of television sets and radios appears
[207] to depend more upon the availability of electricity than upon cultural
[377] factors or income. Sources of water, and the type of sanitation
[364] facilities appear to depend less upon cultural factors than they do
[312] upon where one lives and what sources of water or facilities for
sanitation are available.

[526] Because athletics have been a part of school and community
life for at least two generations, they may create interest or
[224] disinterest equally among the more-Indian and the more-white. Similarly,
[226] hunting and fishing are attractive to both Indian and white and are
engaged in as recreation rather than as a regular source of meat.

[524] Card playing has been widely accepted in the reservation
community and the fact of playing or not playing cards does not split
the population into orientation categories. The important thing about
card playing is not the playing but rather who plays with whom.

184 Other indices hold greater promise for differentiation. Items
177 concerning cultural orientation are most pertinent for the assessment
121 of degrees of acculturation. All of the population show the effects of
acculturation. Everyone, at least nominally, is a Christian; all live
in houses, wear predominantly western clothes, and gain their livelihood
in a wage economy. Almost everyone speaks some English. They buy their
food, clothing and other material wants from stores. It therefore
appears to be more useful to isolate variant retentions of some Blackfeet
cultural elements instead of attempting an assessment of the degree of
acceptance of white ways.